

The IPS is an organisation of corporate and individual members dedicated to the responsible management and Wise Use of peatlands and peat. It promotes the gathering, exchange and communication of knowledge and experience. The Society serves all those interested in peat and peatlands including the scientific, industrial and commercial, and regulatory communities. It respects the economic, social and environmental values of the peatland resource. Currently the IPS has more than 1,400 individual and institutional members from 42 countries.

More than 1,500 Members...

The International Peat Society now has 1,511 members from 44 countries. This was the result of the yearly membership list update in cooperation with our National Committees most of which have sent us updated contact details of their members during the first days of 2014. Altogether IPS comprises currently 1,089 individual, 245 corporate, 26 institutional, 53 student and 41 honorary members in 18 National Committees. The largest member associations can be found in Germany, Finland, Indonesia, Poland and the Netherlands.

	Individual members	Industrial Corporate Members	Research Institutes, Universities	Governmental Institutes	Honorary Members	Students	TOTAL
Canada	8	35	0	0	2	1	46
Estonia	1	29	0	1	0	0	31
Finland	340	3	1	2	11	0	357
Germany	284	59	4	2	10	39	398
Hungary	16	1	1	1	2	0	21
Indonesia	104	0	1	0	0	0	105
Ireland	31	4	0	1	2	0	38
Japan	32	0	0	0	0	0	32
Latvia	2	28	0	0	6	0	36
Lithuania	1	22	0	0	0	0	23
Malaysia	52	5	0	0	0	0	57
The Netherlands	54	15	2	2	3	4	80
Norway	3	4	1	0	0	0	8
Poland	92	3	0	0	1	0	96
Sweden	25	24	2	0	1	0	52
Ukraine	0	4	0	0	0	0	4
United Kingdom	22	6	1	2	1	9	41
USA	22	3	1	1	2	0	29
31 December 2013	1089	245	14	12	41	53	1454

Additionally, IPS has 32 individual, 20 corporate, 2 student and 3 honorary members in countries without a National Committee: Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Burundi, Czech Republic, Chile, China, Denmark, Falkland Islands, France, India, Italy, Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain and Taiwan ROC. You are welcome to join or invite your partners as well: www.peatsociety.org/join-us.

Next Executive Board Meeting in Groningen

The IPS Executive Board will hold its next meeting in Groningen, the Netherlands during **26 - 28 March 2014**. On the agenda, there will traditionally be the Annual Report and Accounts 2013, the budget, membership fees and plan of activities 2014 – 2015, plus a check up of which strategic goals have been achieved recently. Most important, the EB will decide on its recommendation for the venue of the International Peat Congress 2020 (Estonia or Netherlands), evaluate progress of the 2016 Congress in Malaysia, and consider IPS participation in related events this and next year. The Board will also review its cooperation efforts with other international organisations and decide on the winner of the IPS Award of Excellence 2014. With regard to communications, the EB will assess the success of the new Peatlands International. In addition it is planned to speak about the growing IPS document database, the foreseen move from paper to electronic accounting at the IPS Secretariat, and the upcoming Executive Board Elections in August.

Order your IPS Logo Pin!

The IPS Secretariat is offering all members now special logo pins which can be worn at all kind of peat and peatland events, during your work and field trips. The pins are high quality, size 190 x 120 mm, made of metal and coated. They will help to promote your international connections, are a great gift to students and co-workers – and they will possibly encourage your colleagues to join the peat family as well. Each pin costs € 5 inclusive of mailing costs and can be ordered at www.peatsociety.org/shop/books-and-brochures.

Peat Technology Conference in Riga, Latvia

The Latvian National Committee of the IPS is hosting this year's IPS Annual Convention at the **International Peat and Technology Symposium in Riga** for the full week of **25 - 29 August 2014**. This event is combined with the traditional Baltic Peat Forum and will thereby offer you and your co-workers great benefit with presentations on all kind of peat management, knowledge and practical experience and the science behind. The Symposium is devoted to "Peat in the 21st Century: its effective and efficient production and high quality processing". The IPS Annual Assembly is scheduled for **28 August 2014**. For more information and the preliminary programme visit www.peat2014.lv.

In Memoriam: Honorary President Allan Robertson

It was with great sadness that we heard that the IPS Honorary Member Allan Robertson passed away on **7 February** after having spent his last years in a nursing home in Helensburgh, Scotland. Allan was one of the founding members of the IPS and most of us remember him as a really smart, fun and lovely person. He had attended almost all International Peat Congresses, served on the Council and Board of the IPS and was appointed Honorary President in 1996. In general he played a great role in setting up the IPS, bridging opinions and bringing people from different countries and backgrounds together, always in a friendly and cheerful way. He will stay in our hearts forever. Peatlands International 2/2014 will have a special on his achievements – if you would like to participate with memories or photographs, please contact [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org) by the end of March.

Aline Prantl New Library Intern for IPS

The IPS Secretariat was successful in hiring another part-time intern to plan and carry out the further digitalisation of our books and proceedings, and, in connection to that, to review the organisation of the small internal library at the IPS Secretariat. Ms. Aline Prantl from Switzerland is currently studying English language in the Master programme at the University of Jyväskylä, has several years of working experience in libraries and holds a degree in Information Science from HTW Chur. Immediately prior to moving to Finland last year she was employed part time at the library of the Department of Mathematics at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zürich and she has worked for the Information Management Section of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. She will stay with us for two months and can be reached at [aline.prantl \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:aline.prantl@peatsociety.org). We warmly welcome Aline to our team! To visit the document database, login to your personal member account at www.peatsociety.org/user and go to www.peatsociety.org/publications/documentbank. New passwords can be automatically requested by all IPS members (whose email addresses we have) from www.peatsociety.org/user/password.

Public Consultation on Irish National Peatlands Strategy

The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in Ireland has published the following documents and is inviting submissions from all stakeholders, interested parties and the general public:

- The **Draft National Peatlands Strategy** sets out a cross-governmental approach to managing peatlands including compliance with EU environmental law, climate change, forestry, flood control, energy, nature conservation, planning and agriculture. The strategy also sets out proposals for the development of a new regulatory regime for turf contractors.
- The **Draft National Raised Bog Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Management Plan** provides for the future restoration and management of the 53 raised bog SACs and how the needs of turf-cutters are to be addressed. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement have also been prepared to identify and mitigate potential adverse environmental impacts associated with

- implementation of the Plan.
- The Review of the Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs).

Written submissions or observations with respect to the documents can be made to the Department by **18 April 2014**. For further information, and to find out how to submit comments, visit www.npws.ie; www.ahg.gov.ie or www.raisedbogconservation.com. (Katie Smart, RPS Group)

IPCC Has Published Full Report Climate Change 2013

IPCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has published its assessment report, Climate Change 2013: the Physical Science Basis on **30 January 2014**. Key conclusions are that warming of the climate system is unequivocal, human influence on the climate system is clear, and limiting climate change will require substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. The Summary for Policymakers of the IPCC Working Group I assessment report was approved in September 2013 by the member governments of the IPCC meeting in Stockholm, Sweden. This Working Group I Fifth Assessment Report offers a comprehensive understanding of the physical science basis of climate change. It comprises over 1500 printed pages of text and includes more than 600 printed diagrams, and citing more than 9000 scientific publications, to be used by policymakers, stakeholders and the scientific community. Altogether 54,677 written review comments by expert and government reviewers on those drafts were considered. The print edition is due to be published by the end of March 2014. The Working Group I contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report is available at www.climatechange2013.org or www.ipcc.ch. (IPCC Press Release)

Woodland Talks in Sheffield

A two-day seminar "Ancient Woodland Talk In the Bog - Managing Landscape Change and Future Ecologies" will be held during **15 - 16 May 2014** at Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield, UK, followed by a three-day workshop on **9 - 11 September 2015**. These two linked events build on our themes of ancient wooded landscapes, of trees beyond the wood, of cultural peatlands & wetlands, of commons and traditions, of declining wildlife, of grazing landscapes and treescapes, and more. The events will address critical issues of landscape and ecological history, of wilding or re-wilding, on nature and heritage conservation, and the impacts of current trends and major socio-economic changes. For more information please visit www.ukeconet.org/event/wilder-by-design.

MoorLIFE Seminar on Sphagnum Reintroduction

The UK Moors for the Future Partnership announce a 'Save the date' for their MoorLIFE seminar "Sphagnum reintroduction in practice" in Manchester, **11 June 2014**. The seminar, organised by the Moors for the Future Partnership and Manchester Metropolitan University, will take place in central Manchester. This one day event will bring together practitioners, policy makers, researchers and students to share knowledge and best practice of the reintroduction of Sphagnum to upland peat bogs. Outcomes of the seminar will feed into a best practice guide. The seminar is an opportunity to learn from the leaders in the field of conservation and land management on the application and monitoring of Sphagnum. It will include an update on the latest scientific research from Manchester Metropolitan University and the Moors for the Future Partnership, as well as a poster session and student workshop on early careers. The Moors for the Future Partnership has pioneered the landscape-scale reintroduction of Sphagnum in the Peak District and South Pennines - the key aim of the MoorLIFE project is to protect active blanket bog in these areas, which will include the reintroduction of Sphagnum over an area of 650ha. More details, including registration arrangements, will be available soon at www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/moorlife-seminar. (Debra Wilson, MoorLIFE)

UNDP Wetland Conservation Kick-off in Belarus

The UNDP project "Conservation and sustainable management of peatlands in Belarus to minimize carbon emissions and help ecosystems to adapt to climate change" was launched in Belarus in February 2014 according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. The 4-year project is foreseen to restore the Zvanets and Sporovskoye peatlands (Brest Oblast), which are important nesting sites of the Aquatic warbler, listed in the Red Book List of Endangered Species. This will include active conservation management, mainly removal of shrubs, and the restoration of the hydrological regime of the wetlands. In addition, equipment will be purchased for biomass harvesting and processing. For more information, visit: <http://news.belta.by/en/news/society?id=738997>.